

**To:** Aquino, Virginia[Aquino.Virginia@epa.gov]  
**From:** Greenberg, Marc  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 6:19:28 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Gold King Mine Site Response

**From:** Aquino, Virginia  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 10:18 AM  
**To:** Greenberg, Marc  
**Subject:** Gold King Mine Site Response

Marc,

This is Greg's biweekly submission:

**Gold King Mine Blowout, Silverton, CO** [Emergency Response]. At the request of the EPA Region 8 Incident Commander, Greg Powell responded to a release of mine waste from an abandoned adit at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado, on August 10-14. An estimated 1.3 million gallons of mine waste water discharged from the mine portal. The plume moved approximately 70 river miles to Durango and beyond. The Incident Commander has requested support for water treatment, rapid field water analysis, evaluation of options for potential actions on irrigation canals, and overall operational support. Recent data indicates that levels of heavy metals in the river system are returning to more "normal" levels. The Animas River is heavily impacted by historic mining activities and is by no means a pristine stream. Evidence of manganese and iron staining on river alluvium is widespread. The critical issue that ERT will be working on in the field over the next few days is restoring water to the irrigation utilities. (Contacts: ERT – Gregory W. Powell, 513-569-7533. Region 8 – Craig Myers, Incident Commander, 303-312-7067)

## Virginia

Virginia A. Aquino

Environmental Response Team/TIFSD/OSRTI/OSWER

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